



March 22, 2023

Samaritan Health Services Supports HB 2878

Samaritan Health Services (SHS) is a not-for-profit network of hospitals, clinics, and health services caring for more than 250,000 residents of the mid-Willamette Valley, central Oregon Coast, and rural communities in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties. Samaritan Health Services is a regional integrated health system, which includes 5 hospitals, 3 of which are rural critical access hospitals, 4 health plans covering over 100,000 community members, over 80 primary care and urgent care clinics, and numerous specialty services.

As CEO of Samaritan Health Plans and Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization (IHN-CCO), I see firsthand the benefit of a global budget, a focused approach to quality metrics, maximizing our primary care system, and continuing to expand our delivery of services that address the social determinants of health and health equity. I believe a community-driven and community accountable approach to organizing a health system and delivering high value, evidence-based care is key to our quest to increase access and health outcomes, at a lower cost. Working on this pilot project concept would allow the evolution of the highly effective and innovative CCO model to expand to other community members, payers, and providers in our region in an organized and focused approach.

The global budget approach outlined in HB 2878, aligns with the mission of Samaritan Health Services of Building Healthier Communities Together. We welcome the opportunity to work with our current community partners and have others join us in this mission. By aligning payment models, metrics, and accountability at the community level we can continue to innovate our approach to preventative and high-quality services and supports focused on the long-term health of the community. This approach leads us on the right path to deliver on the voter approved value to “ensure that every resident of Oregon has access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care.” Oregon has been an innovative leader in health care delivery and payment models and this bill ensures that we continue this path.

A global budget concept that aligns payers and providers would provide the necessary foundation for innovation and focused approaches to community health. IHN-CCO has been successful in expanding the delivery of social determinants of health through partnerships with community-based organizations, building out dynamic workforce of traditional health workers, investing in housing supports, expanding value-based payment to all provider sectors, and ensuring access to care coordination and high-quality services.

Samaritan Health Services welcomes the opportunity to be at the table and involved in the concepts outlined in HB287. This legislation is the right approach to innovation and addressing the ongoing challenges in our health care system by focusing on the strengths and partnerships that exist today

Bruce Butler

Vice-President of Samaritan Health Services

CEO of Samaritan Health Plans, Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization